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Your Reference: HL83272/DAN
Application No: GB 0223212.2

The Patent Office
Patents Directorate

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9 April 2003

Dear Sirs

Patents Act 1977:
Combined Search and Examination Report under Sections 17 and 18(3)

Latest date for reply: 20 October 2003

I enclose two copies of my search and examination report and a copy of the citations.

By the above date you should either file amendments to meet the objections in the report or make observations on them. If you do not, the application may be refused.

Scope of search

The product claims 31 to 33 are unduly broad and speculative, as the addition of biocide to the cooling water will not result in a different product being produced by the process. The products produced in the claims are not produced by a new method and simply relate to products resulting from a standard Fischer-Tropsch process, which is well known. These claims have not been searched.

Publication

I estimate that, provided you have met all formal requirements, preparations for publication of your application will be completed soon after **13 May 2003**. You will then receive a letter informing you of completion and telling you the publication number and date of publication.

[†]**Use of E-mail:** Please note that e-mail should be used for correspondence only.



Amendment/withdrawal

If you wish to file amended claims for inclusion with the published application, or to withdraw the application to prevent publication, you must do so before the preparations for publication are completed. **No reminder will be issued.** If you write to the Office less than 3 weeks before the above completion date, please mark your letter prominently: **"URGENT - PUBLICATION IMMINENT".**

Yours faithfully

Chris Archer
Examiner

Important information about combined search and examination

I also ask that you take note of the following points. These might have a bearing on the future stages of your application because the examination report has been sent to you before your application has been published.

- (a) You may file voluntary amendments before making a full response to my examination report. We will publish with your application any new or amended claims you file voluntarily or as a full response, provided that they are received before preparations for publication are completed. It would help us when you file amendments before publication if you could prominently indicate in a covering letter whether or not the amendments are intended as a full response to the examination report.
- (b) If you file a full response to the examination report before your application is published I will consider it as soon as possible. However, if this would disrupt the publication of your application, I would have to delay taking any action until the application had been published. This delay could be up to 3 months, depending upon when we receive your response.
- (c) There is another situation when there might be a delay between you filing a full response and the Patent Office responding to it. This would arise if you met all my objections but your application had not or had only recently been published. I could not report the outcome of my re-examination until I was satisfied that the search was complete for documents published before the priority date of your invention and that anybody interested in the application has had three months following publication of the application to make observations on the patentability of your invention.
- (d) Provided that the requirements of the Act have been met, I can send your application to grant as early as three months after publication. Before doing so I will bring the original search up to date and raise with you any further objection that might result from this top-up search. However, there is a possibility that at that time I may not have access to all the patent applications published after the priority date of your invention and of possible relevance to your application. If this is the case I would have to complete the search after grant and if necessary raise any new found novelty objection then.



Application No: GB 0223212.2
Claims searched: 1-30

Examiner: Chris Archer
Date of search: 8 April 2003

Patents Act 1977 : Search Report under Section 17

Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Relevant to claims	Identity of document and passage or figure of particular relevance	
X	1-6, 10, 11 (X) 7-9 (Y)	EP 1127846 A	(SIEMENS) see in particular the English language abstract enclosed
Y	7, 9	US 5108621	(ROBINS) see in particular column 2 lines 19 to 35
Y	7, 9	US 6001274	(FARKAS) see whole document
Y	7, 9	US 5837159	(FARKAS) see whole document
Y	8	US 3839008	(SHEEMA) see whole document
Y	8	US 3879513	(SHEEMA) see whole document

Categories:

X Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step	A Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.
Y Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.	P Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
& Member of the same patent family	E Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.

Field of Search:

Search of GB, EP, WO & US patent documents classified in the following areas of the UKC⁶:

C1C; A5E

Worldwide search of patent documents classified in the following areas of the IPC⁷:

C02F; A01N

The following online and other databases have been used in the preparation of this search report :

ONLINE: WPI, EPODOC, JAPIO; CAS ONLINE



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Patents Act 1977 Combined Search and Examination Report under Sections 17 & 18(3)

Novelty

1. The invention as defined in claim 1 is not new because it has already been disclosed in the following document:

EP 1127846 A (SIEMENS) see in particular the English language abstract enclosed.

2. The document shows the use of deactivateable biocides in cooling water systems, and as such claim 1 is not novel.

Inventive step

3. The invention as defined in claims 2-7, & 8-11 is obvious in view of what has already been disclosed in the following documents:

US 5108621 (ROBINS) see in particular column 2 lines 19 to 35, relevant to claims 7 and 9.

US 6001274 (FARKAS) see whole document, relevant to claims 7 and 9.

US 5837159 (FARKAS) see whole document, relevant to claims 7 and 9.

US 3839008 (SHEMA) see whole document, relevant to claim 8.

US 3879513 (SHEEMA) see whole document, relevant to claim 8.

4. Aldehydes, including glutaraldehyde, are well known biocides. The documents by Robins and Farkas show the disposal of aqueous aldehydes by neutralisation with urea, and as such claims 7 and 9 would not appear to contain an inventive step.

5. The use of alkynes as biocides in cooling water systems is known as shown by the Sheeba documents. It would not appear to be beyond the man skilled in the art to realise that the alkynes could be neutralised via hydrogenation.

6. Claims 2 to 6, 10 and 11 does not appear to contain any subject matter that would render claim 1 inventive if incorporated into the main claim.

Clarity

7. The product claims 31 to 33 are unduly broad and speculative, as the addition of biocide to the cooling water will not result in a different product being produced by the process. The products produced in the claims are not produced by a new method and



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[Examination Report contd.]

simply relate to products resulting from a standard Fischer-Tropsch process, which is well known. These claims have not been searched.

Non-metric units

8. The equivalent temperatures in °C should be given alongside the non-Celsius temperatures mentioned on page 7 of your specification.